Remembering/ teaching use of apostrophes.

Only two reasons for using an apostrophe.

1. to indicate missing letters in a contraction [do not = don’t; would have = would’ve; it is = it’s]
2. to indicate possession/ownership

The BOX TRICK for remembering/ teaching use of *possessive* apostrophes.

Ask yourself, “To whom does the item belong?”

Put a BOX around the owner(s). Place the apostrophe AFTER the BOX.

C:\Documents and Settings\aitkene\Local Settings\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\5ZOOLQ8D\MC900417434[1].wmfTo whom does the bone belong? The dog. So = dog**’**s The dog’s bone.

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To whom do the bones belong? The dogs. So = dogs**’** The dogs’ bones.

C:\Documents and Settings\aitkene\Local Settings\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\3OLFMK9L\MC900232128[1].wmfTo whom do the books belong? The child. So = child**’**s The child’s books.

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To whom do the books belong? The children. So = children**’**s The children’s books.

Common errors.

Always consider how it would be written in words and punctuate the same way.

It was the early nineteen hundreds. = It was the early 1900s.

The eighties’ fashion was colourful. The 80’s fashion was colourful.

He was in his sixties. He was in his 60s.

There were thousands of people at the event. There were 1000s of people at the event.

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Apostrophes and errors.

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He was in his sixties. He was in his 60s.

There were thousands of people at the event. There were 1000s of people at the event.

My mother’s necklace is broken.

The car’s door is crushed.

This is my brother’s son.

Our form’s roll book was lost.

The teacher’s nose dribbled.

My two brothers’ children are older than mine.

Your parents’ car is cool.

The old folks’ home is a nice place.

The ladies’ meals were cold.

The high school teams’ coaches are very capable.

The pages of the book The book’s pages

The baby of the mother The mother’s baby

The driver of the car The car’s driver

The book s of the students The students’ books

The wages of the workers The workers’ wages